

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 SIG-03 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02
STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DLOS-09 L-03
CG-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 AGRE-00 /102 R

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NMFS/NOAA:BKEITH
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P R 132157Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC, COPENHAGEN AND MEXICO FOR FISHATTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EFIS, EEC, FG

SUBJECT:SHRIMPING OFF FRENCH GUIANA

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 06943, (B) STATE 79709, (C) BRUSSELS 6386

1. IN RESPONSE SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED REFS, (A) AND (C),
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DEPT. AGREES IT WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS POINT FOR EMBASSY
PARIS TO RAISE PROPOSED SHRIMP RESEARCH TAGGING PROJECT
WITH FRENCH FISHERY AUTHORITIES. WHILE U.S. IS OF COURSE
INTERESTED IN PROJECT, WE BELIEVE A LOW KEY APPROACH WOULD
BE APPROPRIATE TO AVOID IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE PUSHING
PROPOSAL ON THE FRENCH. DEPT. BELIEVES FRENCH WILL FAVOR
PROPOSAL ON ITS MERITS, AND THAT ONLY PROBLEMS MIGHT LIE IN

BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS IN DECISION MAKING THAT COULD AFFECT TENTATIVE PLANS FOR FIRST MEETING IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY, 1978. NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) SCIENTIST HARVEY BULLIS HAS CIRCULATED DRAFT REPORT OF MARCH 13-17 GUIANAS VISIT BY U.S. TEAM, AND FINAL REPORT WILL BE CABLED TO INTERESTED POSTS O/A APRIL 24. REPORT WILL ASK FOR DECISION BY INTERESTED COUNTRIES ON DATE AND VENUE OF FIRST MEETING.

2. ON RELATED SUBJECT, SHRIMP FLEET OWNER JACK SAHLMAN,

OPERATOR OF MAJORITY OF U.S. FLAG VESSELS BASED AT CAYENNE, HAS PROVIDED DEPT. OFFICERS WITH HIS INSIGHTS INTO FRENCH GUIANA SITUATION. WHILE SAHLMAN AGREES THAT U.S. VESSELS WILL FISH FRENCH GUIANA MORE INTENSIVELY NOW THAT BRAZILIAN AREAS NO LONGER AVAILABLE (REF (B)), HE POINTS OUT THAT CURRENT FRENCH GUIANA LICENSING SCHEME HAS SERVED TO EXCLUDE LARGE NUMBERS OF JAPANESE AND KOREAN VESSELS BASED IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WHICH FORMERLY CAUGHT LARGE QUANTITIES OF SHRIMP NOT PROCESSED IN CAYENNE PLANT. HIS VIEW IS THAT RESULTING DECREASE IN FISHING PRESSURE MAY ALLOW U.S. VESSELS BASED FRENCH GUIANA TO ACTUALLY INCREASE CATCHES IN THE AREA AND MAINTAIN PRODUCTION DELIVERED TO CAYENNE. IN FACT, HE REPORTS THAT RECENT SHRIMPING IN FRENCH GUIANA ZONE HAS BEEN "VERY GOOD". EXCLUSION OF NON FRENCH GUIANA BASED VESSELS FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ZONE MAY THEREFORE WORK TO SHORT TERM ADVANTAGE OF U.S. VESSELS THERE. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE U.S. WISHES TO AVOID IMPRESSION OF ATTEMPTING TO IMPOSE ITS VIEWS ON GOVERNMENTS OF THE THREE GUIANAS, WE STILL BELIEVE THAT EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCE WILL EVENTUALLY REQUIRE COOPERATION AMONG ALL THREE AND, AT SOME POINT, JOINT MANAGEMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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